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RR RUEHGI RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHNJ #0381/01 2461742  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 021742Z SEP 08  
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6425  
INFO RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 1716  
RUEHGI/AMEMBASSY BANGUI 1530  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2331  
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 0476  
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0510  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1778  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0998

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 NDJAMENA 000381

SIPDIS

PARIS AND LONDON FOR AFRICA WATCHERS, STATE FOR AF, AF/C, AF/EPS,  
AND AF/RSA  
ADDIS ALSO FOR AU

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PREF](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [IBRD](#) [PHUM](#) [UN](#) [LY](#) [CD](#)  
SUBJECT: CHAD CHRONICLE: AUGUST 2008

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PRESIDENT DEBY GETS INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION REPORT  
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[¶1.](#) INVESTIGATION INTO THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008 EVENTS:  
PRESIDENT DEBY SAYS HE WILL "FOLLOW UP" RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
REPORT. THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE EVENTS OF JANUARY AND  
FEBRUARY 2008 SUBMITTED ITS REPORT TO PRESIDENT DEBY ON TUESDAY,  
AUGUST 5. IN RECEIVING THE REPORT, PRESIDENT DEBY DECLARED THAT HE  
WILL STRICTLY FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENT,  
AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL "CAREFULLY FOLLOW IT UP." NO INDICATION  
WAS GIVEN AS TO THE DATE WHEN THE 160-PAGE REPORT WOULD BE RELEASED  
TO THE PUBLIC. IN RECEIVING THE REPORT, PRESIDENT DEBY TOLD THE HEAD  
OF THE COMMISSION, MR. ALLAISSEM DJAIBE, THAT THE GOC WOULD  
ESTABLISH A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE. (SEE PARA 11  
BELOW.)

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CHINESE FIND OIL DEPOSIT IN SOUTHWESTERN CHAD  
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[¶2.](#) HIGH-QUALITY OIL DEPOSIT DISCOVERED IN THE BONGOR AREA. THE  
MINISTER OF OIL, MR. MAHAMAT NASSER HASSANE, ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 13  
THAT A DEPOSIT OF HIGH-QUALITY PETROLEUM HAS BEEN DISCOVERED IN  
SOUTHWESTERN CHAD NEAR THE TOWN OF BONGOR BY THE CHINESE NATIONAL  
PETROLEUM COMPANY (CNPC). HE DECLARED THAT, ONCE EXPLOITED, THIS OIL  
WOULD BE REFINED AT A REFINERY TO BE LOCATED IN DJERMAYA ON THE  
OUTSKIRTS OF NDJAMENA IN ORDER TO SATISFY INTERNAL DEMAND.

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HIGH COURT CONDEMNS REBEL CHIEFS, HABRE  
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[¶3.](#) HIGH COURT CONDEMNS REBELS, EX-PRESIDENT HABRE IN ABSENTIA.  
(AUGUST 13-15): DURING ITS FIRST SESSION AUGUST 12-15, THE CRIMINAL  
COURT PRONOUNCED HARSH SENTENCES AGAINST CURRENT CHAD REBEL LEADERS  
AS WELL AS FORMER PRESIDENT HISSEIN HABRE. TWELVE REBEL LEADERS AND  
HABRE WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA. AMONG THOSE SENTENCED TO  
DEATH WERE MAJOR REBEL LEADERS MAHAMAT NOURI, TOM ERDIMI, TIMAN  
ERDIMI, AHMAT HASSABALLAH SOUBIANE, AND ABDOUL-WAHID ABOUD. LIFE  
SENTENCES WERE PRONOUNCED AGAINST FORTY-TWO OTHER REBELS. THE COURT  
ALSO ORDERED THE CONFISCATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CONDEMNED. IN  
REACTION TO RUMORS THAT THE SENTENCING OF HISSEIN HABRE BY THE  
CHADIAN CRIMINAL COURT WOULD PUT AN END TO HIS TRIAL PROCESS  
UNDERWAY IN SENEGAL, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, JEAN ALINGUE BAWOYEU  
DECLARED ON AUGUST 15 THAT THE NDJAMENA CRIMINAL COURT'S DECISION  
DOES NOT AFFECT THE TRIAL PROCESS IN SENEGAL. HE EXPLAINED THAT  
HISSEIN HABRE WAS CONVICTED IN CHAD FOR HIS SUPPORT TO THE CHADIAN  
REBELS, WHILE HIS TRIAL IN SENEGAL IS RELATED TO "CRIME AGAINST  
HUMANITY AND OTHER ATROCITIES."

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NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS  
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14. EIGHT NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS. ON AUGUST 15, AMBASSADORS FROM CANADA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, MALTA, GHANA, SPAIN, IRELAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIAL LETTERS TO PRESIDENT DEBY. FIVE OF THE AMBASSADORS RESIDE IN YAOUNDE, CAMEROON, WHILE THE THREE OTHER HAVE THEIR RESIDENCES IN ABUJA, NIGERIA.

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MORE RFC REBELS RALLY TO GOC  
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15. ELEMENTS OF THE RFC REBEL GROUP AGREE TO END ARMED STRUGGLE. THE GOC ANNOUNCED AUGUST 18 THAT THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT AND ELEMENTS OF THE "RASSEMBLEMENT DES FORCES POUR LE CHANGEMENT" (RFC - RALLY OF FORCES FOR CHANGE), SIGNED A PROTOCOL AGREEMENT IN APPLICATION OF THE SIRTE ACCORD. THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE NATIONAL MEDIATOR REPRESENTING THE GOC AND THE RFC DEFENSE COMMISSIONER IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO CHAD. THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT INCLUDE AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE RFC FIGHTERS TO BE FOLLOWED BY THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE CHADIAN NATIONAL ARMY OR (FOR CIVILIANS) INTO THE CHADIAN CIVIL SERVICE. INTEGRATION IS TO OCCUR WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT. THE FIGHTERS WILL ASSEMBLE IN IRIBA, WHERE THEY WILL BE COUNTED. ONCE THEIR NUMBER IS KNOWN, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL INITIATE AN AMNESTY LAW FOR THOSE WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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GOC MICR-FINANCING PROJECT LAUNCHED  
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16. NATIONAL MICRO-FINANCE STRATEGY: AT LEAST 500,000 TO ACCESS LOANS BETWEEN NOW AND 2013. DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A SEMINAR ON THE NATIONAL MICRO-FINANCE STRATEGY ON AUGUST 18, THE VICE-MINISTER FOR ECONOMY AND PLANNING, MS. AZIZA BAROUD ANNOUNCED THAT AT LEAST 500,000 LOW INCOME PEOPLE WILL HAVE ACCESS TO MICRO-CREDITS BETWEEN NOW AND 2013. THE PLAN IS PART OF A GRAND POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY TO MAKE CREDIT AVAILABLE TO LOW INCOME CITIZENS WHO OTHERWISE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO REGULAR BANK LENDING.

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FINANCE MINISTER FIRED  
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17. FINANCE MINISTER DISMISSED. ON AUGUST 19 PRESIDENT DEBY UNEXPECTEDLY FIRED MINISTER OF FINANCE, MR. ABAKAR MALLAH MOURTCHA. ACCORDING TO L'OBSERVATEUR, A LOCAL NEWSPAPER, THE MINISTER WAS ACCUSED TO SELLING STATE LETTERS OF CREDIT TO A LOCAL BANK WITH THE AIM OF PERSONAL PROFIT, THUS CAUSING DELAY OF PAYMENTS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THOSE LETTERS OF CREDIT, MOST OF WHOM ARE RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS AND OTHER NEEDY PERSONS. SUCH CORRUPTION, ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, IS CONTRARY TO THE PRESIDENT'S DECLARED SOCIAL MANDATE.

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INDIAN FIRMS INVEST IN CHAD  
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18. INDIAN COMPANIES TO INVEST IN THE CHADIAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. ON AUGUST 22 THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT AND AN INDIAN COMPANY SIGNED TWO AGREEMENTS TOTALING 10 MILLION US DOLLARS. ONE RELATES TO THE PRODUCTION OF FERTILIZERS, AND THE SECOND TO THE PROCESSING OF GRAIN INTO CEREAL AND FLOUR.

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WORLD BANK DELEGATION VISITS CHAD  
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19. A WORLD BANK DELEGATION LED BY ITS AFRICA REGION VICE PRESIDENT

VISITED CHAD FROM AUGUST 23-25, 2008. ACCORDING TO A COMMUNIQUE DATED AUGUST 25 RELEASED BY THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLANNING, THE VISIT ENABLED THE TWO PARTIES (GOC AND WB) TO CLEAR UP SEVERAL MISUNDERSTADINGS ABOUT PAST AGREEMENTS. THE COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT FRANK TALKS HAVE ENABLED THE TWO PARTIES TO IRON OUT FINANCIAL LITIGATION STEMING FROM THE WORLD BANK'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CHADIAN OIL PROJECT, AND TO CONSIDER RE-LAUNCHING THEIR COOPERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING THE RE-OPENING OF THE BANK'S REPRESENTATION IN CHAD. (THIS COULD JUST QUOTE THE COMMUNIQUE, INSTEAD OF BADLY SUMMARIZING ITS CONTENT.)

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EUFOR AIR ASSETS  
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¶10. EUFOR UTILIZING HELICOPTERS TO EXTEND ITS REACH, WORKING WITH LOCAL TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES TO COUNTER BANDITRY. THE PEACE-KEEPING EUROPEAN MISSION (EUFOR) ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS RELEASE THAT IT NOW HAS ELEVEN HELICOPTERS THAT WILL ENABLE ITS FORCES TO BETTER SECURE THE CONFLICT ZONE IN SPITE OF THE RAINY SEASON THAT HAS MADE ROADS IN THE REGION DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE. ADDITIONALLY, THE EUFOR SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PATROLS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH CHIEFS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO REDUCE BANDITRY. EUFOR CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES ARE: FRANCE, IRELAND, POLAND, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA, ROMANIA, ITALY, BELGIUM, SPAIN, ALBANIA, FINLAND, PORTUGAL, SLOVENIA, THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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GOC NAMES COMMITTEE TO FOLLOW UP COMMISSION REPORT  
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¶11. GOC ANNOUNCES "FOLLOW UP" COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION. THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED AUGUST 28 THAT A MINISTERIAL LEVEL TEAM HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO BE THE "COMITE DE SUIVI" (MONITORING COMMITTEE) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION INTO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE REBEL ATTACK ON THE CAPITAL IN FEBRUARY. THE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUSTICE,

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COMMUNICATION, INTERIOR, SOCIAL ACTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CABINET CONSTITUTE THE COMITE. THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WAS BEING TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED "SOON."

NIGRO